



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Governmental & Legislative
Affairs Director

March 24, 2017

The Honorable Richard Roth
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 39 (Roth) – As Introduced December 5, 2016 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Roth:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 39, legislation that would allow for up to five vacant judgeships to be reallocated to superior courts with fewer authorized judgeships than their assessed judicial need.

California's state court system, the largest in the nation, serves 38 million people. The state's fastest growing counties, including San Bernardino County, are facing a critical shortage of judges to hear the cases of our most vulnerable citizens. In 2007, the Legislature authorized 50 new trial court judges. However, the positions remain unfunded and unfilled. San Bernardino County Superior Court is one of the most underfunded, under judged and staffed courts in the state, which handles some of the highest caseloads statewide. On December 13, 2012, the California Judicial Council voted to approve the 2012 Judicial Needs Assessment which determined the County of San Bernardino needed 156 judges to meet the community's needs. Unfortunately, to date, only 67 of those judges are funded.

SB 39 would provide for a equitable distribution of judgeships by giving the Judicial Council the authority to develop a mechanism that reallocates up to five vacant judgeships from superior courts with more authorized judicial positions (AJP) than their assessed judicial need to superior courts with fewer AJPs such as San Bernardino County Superior Court.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 39. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: County of San Bernardino Legislative Delegation

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